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Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Eritrea

OAU Chief Arrives for Talks on Hanish Dispute

AB2712190095 Dakar PANA in English 1145 GMT 27 Dec 95

[Report by Ghion Hagos]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (PANA) — Africa's top civil servant, Salim Ahmed Salim, left for Eritrea Wednesday [27 December] for talks on that country's dispute with Yemen over ownership of the Hanish islands.

Organization of African Unity spokesman Ibrahim Dagash said that Salim, the body's secretary-general, would meet with government officials and President Isaias Afwerki during his two days in the capital, Asmara. Top on the agenda will be the latest efforts to end the dispute over greater Hanish. [passage omitted]

Salim Said Ready To Play Role

EA2712194795 Asmara Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 1600 GMT 27 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] OAU Secratary-General Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim on 27 December held talks in Asmara with Eritrean Foreign Minister Petros Solomon.

During the meeting, Minister Petros briefed him on the developments in Eritrea over the past few years.

Mr. Petros gave detailed accounts of the current situation on the Hanish archipelago and reaffirmed Eritrea's stance that if, in principle the two sides agreed to withdraw their forces from Hanish, then the issue could be resolved through international arbitration.

For his part, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim pointed out that the issue should not be made to look like an African versus Arab conflict and noted that statements from Arab states to this effect were unacceptable. He affirmed that the OAU was ready to play its role in bringing about peace between the two sisterly countries.

In a statement to local journalists at Asmara international airport on arrival, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim noted that preserving the historical relations between Eritrea and Yemen was of utmost concern. He went on to say that dialogue and a peaceful solution to the issue was not only beneficial to the two countries but also to neighboring countries of the region. He also noted that there was no need to fan the situation further. Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim is expected to hold talks with President Isaias tomorrow.

On arrival at Asmara airport this afternoon, the OAU secretary-general was welcomed by senior Eritrean Government officials led by Foreign Minister Petros Solomon.

Government, ICRC Agree on Yemeni POW Release

EA2712195295 Asmara Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 27 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Talks have started between an Eritrean Government delegation and the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] on Yemeni POWs from the Hanish archipelago. In the talks this morning between the two sides at Amba Soyira Hotel in Asmara, procedural understanding was reached on releasing the Yemeni POWs.

According to the memorandum of understanding, the ICRC delegation will tomorrow morning meet the POWs and begin its work.

Ethiopia

Source: Addis Ababa Not To Back Eritrea in War

NC2712181295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Addis Ababa, 27 Dec (MENA) — A diplomatic source in Addis Ababa said today that Ethiopia does not want the current dispute between Eritrea and Yemen to develop into a state of war over the al-Hanish islands in the Red Sea. In a statement to a MENA correspondent in Addis Ababa, the source ruled out the possibility of Ethiopia siding with Eritrea, which seceded from it in May 1991, should the dispute turn into war. He said that there is a clear desire in Ethiopia to safeguard Ethiopian-Arab relations, which were greatly harmed throughout the rule of the former military regime. He stressed that Ethiopia is concerned that these relations will return to such a level. It should be recalled that there is a joint defense agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Mesfin on 25 Dec Meeting With Eritrean President

EA2712193595 Addis Ababa Radio Ethiopia International Service in English 1630 GMT 27 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin says Ethiopia's efforts to defuse tension in the southern entrance of the Red Sea will continue unabated until Eritrea and Yemen withdraw their forces from the disputed Hanish islands. The minister said he held extensive discussions on Monday [25 December] on the issue with Eritrean president Isaias Afwerki and the country's foreign minister, Petros Solomon, adding that Eritrea and Yemen have failed to reach an agreement to withdraw their forces from the disputed islands. Mr. Seyoum also indicated that countries other than Ethiopia and the international community have already begun efforts to help the two countries overcome the problem between them. [passage omitted]

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Police Adopt U.S. FBI Investigative Approach

MB2812123295 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 28 Dec 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] South Africa is revolutionising its police methods in the war against serious crime by adopting United States Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI]-style tactics to target the masterminds of crime.

Police throughout the country are reorganising the Crime Investigation Service (CIS) into a fully fledged FBI-style outfit. The CIS will have units such as the Commercial and Organised Crime wing and Internal Security.

A new Priority Crimes Unit (PCU) is also being launched as one of the arms of the investigative family.

The CIS is to focus on the criminal targeted by the investigation instead of on merely a particular crime, in the same style as the world-famous FBI.

Former Western Cape Murder and Robbery chief Leonard Knipe, who will head the PCU in the province, said he was confident about the new investigative approach of the CIS.

He said the approach could "break the back" of crime syndicates for good by lifting out the kingpins who masterminded crime. "White-collar rackets, gangsterism, drug trafficking and other serious organised crime needs to be addressed effectively as soon as possible to bring down crime levels, which have a negative effect on the economy," Knipe said.

Taxi violence, drug and firearm smuggling and police corruption have recently been declared priority crimes by SAPS [South African Police Service] Commissioner George Fivaz.

Knipe said he was exited about the future of the PCU.

"Investigations would begin with the criminal, the person himself where the crime started in the first place. The CIS would obtain authorisation through the courts to collect and import personal information such as bank accounts to advantage an investigation." [Words indistinct] reasons".

He added that investigations would rely on an extensive intelligence, data-gathering and monitoring network to establish a detailed personal profile of a selected suspect and his or her movements.

The CIS would also rely heavily on technology such as dedicated computer programs to analyse crime patterns and character traits of criminals. Two proven computer programs which had been used by the FBI and Scotland Yard were being acquired and would be tested and perhaps modified to suit the local crime scene.

Knipe said details about crimes and circumstances would be fed into a computer and left to the program to analyse. Crime would also be closely monitored on a day-to-day basis to identify patterns.

Knipe added that the various units in the CIS family would employ permanent members but could at any time use the services of other specialist detectives on an ad hoc basis when required.

Units such as the internal security unit would also have a network of postings in towns and smaller centres.

Knipe said he was looking forward to next year, when forfeiture of assets acquired through crime would probably be legislated to combat serious organised crime.

"For too long it has been a bargain for a white-collar criminal to sit in jail for two or three years and then to return home to wealth and luxury worth millions which had been acquired through crime," Knipe said.

"The PCU means business, and the law-abiding community deserves to be protected against the people who turn life into hell," he said.

UN To Use Expertise in Anti-Drug Campaigns

MB2712181595 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 27 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] South African-trained sniffer dogs are to be sent to East Africa and Zambia early next year to help in anti-drug trafficking campaigns. A United Nations official says the organization has designed a project which will use South African expertise to set up sniffer dog programs in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia.

Mr. (Bjorn Franson) of the UN International Drug Control Program says the million-rand, three-year program includes dog handling, anti-narcotics training, and supplying vehicles and drug detection equipment.

Truth Commission To Receive Sinn Fein Report

MB2712182295 Cape Town CAPE TIMES in English 19 Dec 95 p 4

[Report by Anthony Johnson]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The South African government will submit to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) a report by Sinn Fein on alleged collaboration between British military intelligence, Armscor [Armaments Corporation of South Africa] and the military wing of Protestant loyalists in Northern Ireland.

Sinn Fein president Mr Gerry Adams said yesterday that he had received confirmation in a letter from Justice

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Minister Mr Dullah Omar that the report compiled by the political wing of the Irish Republican Army "will be handled by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for its investigation".

Mr Adams also welcomed the support by Mr Omar and Deputy Defence Minister Mr Ronnie Kasrils for the Cameron Commission conducting an investigation into the issue of arms links between South Africa and the loyalists.

Mr Omar confirmed in his letter to Mr Adams that this probe would "take the form of an investigator being appointed to look into the matter".

"This is a welcome breakthrough which has the potential of placing the spotlight on one of the most controversial issues to have occurred in 25 years of conflict," Mr Adams said.

He said the developments followed a period of intense engagement by Sinn Fein and by the relatives of those killed by loyalists allegedly using South African weapons.

Mr Adams claimed that in the six years prior to the importation of South African weapons into Northern Ireland, loyalists killed 71 people, whereas in the six years after the importation of such weapons, with the alleged assistance of British military intelligence, 229 people were killed.

Mr Adams, who met Judge Edwin Cameron during a visit to South Africa in June, said both Sinn Fein and the relatives organisation Relatives for Justice had made written submissions to the Cameron Commission which was set up to investigate illegal arms transactions by Armscor. Mr Omar, who is on an official visit to India, could not be reached for comment.

Truth Commission Headquarters in Cape Town

MB2812103395 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0940 GMT 28 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Cape Town Dec 28 SAPA — President Nelson Mandela had approved the Truth Commission's recommendation that its headquarters be in Cape Town, commission vice-chairman Dr Alex Boraine said on Thursday [28 December].

He said the commission hoped to decide by next week where its offices would be sited. He had identified two major buildings in the city centre, but was unwilling to name them. It was hoped most of the infrastructural and orginisational work in setting up the commission would be completed before its next meeting, a week-long session from January 22. One problem had been that it was extremelly difficult to get things done in the holiday season.

Boraine said an advertisement for a chief executive officer [CEO] for the commission which appeared in a Cape Town newspaper on Thursday would also be placed in other major newspapers in the country.

The ad says the CEO will have responsibility for the commission's finances and management, including administrative control of personnel. He or she will be expected to ensure the commission operates effectively, and to ensure effective communications between its offices and committees. The pay is R160,000 [rand] a year and fringe benefits. [passage omitted]

An amnesty application form was being drafted. The document would be sent to the more-than-2000 people who had indicated they wanted amnesty, and anyone else who wanted to apply.

Boraine said the number of applications meant the committee would have lengthy sittings.

"It will be two years before they even breathe", he said.

The human rights violations committee would meet in Gauteng on January 8 to consider how it would operate and when and where its first hearings should be. Boraine's guess was these would not be before February.

Izingolweni Residents: Police Slow To Respond

MB2712050895 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2056 GMT 26 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DURBAN Dec 26 SAPA — Residents of Shobashobane in Izingolweni on KwaZulu/Natal's South Coast where at least 16 people were gunned down and more than 80 houses gutted, on Tuesday [26 December] described how their friends and relatives were mowed down as they fled a marauding impi [group of warriors] early on Christmas Day.

Shobashobane, an African National Congress stronghold which is surrounded by staunch Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] supporting areas, was deserted on Tuesday despite a heavy security force presence. No-one has been arrested for the attack.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, accompanied by Defence Minister Joe Modise and Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi arrived in KwaZulu/Natal to hold talks about the crisis with Premier Frank Mdlalose.

The delegation was expected to visit the scene of the killing.

The area's residents, about 120 of whom had taken refuge in the Anglican church hall in Port Shepstone,

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voiced their unhappiness about the reaction of the police, saying they were not quick to respond.

The local police station is about three kilometres away from the scene of the massacre.

Amos Nyawose, whose relative local ANC leader Kmpha Nyawose was killed during the raid, said the attackers, whom he believed were IFP supporters, launched the attack at about 8am.

"They were shooting and burning down houses and residents were scattered all over the place, running and trying to seek refuge from the attack."

He said residents tried to run towards the local police station but their escape route was blocked by another group of attackers.

They were shouting "bulalani amaqabane" (kill the comrades).

"Those who were killed were either hacked or gunned down as they fled from the attack. Others were sought out from their hiding places and killed, " he said.

Nyawose said he escaped certain death by hiding in a bush and only came out when he heard the sound of police vehicles approaching the area.

He believed the attack was aimed at driving out the ANC from Shobashobane. "We received reports in the past that they were planning to drive us out of the area."

IFP Urges ANC To End 'Rhetoric'

MB2712073395 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 0500 GMT 27 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ways of curbing black-on-black violence in KwaZulu/Natal are to be discussed at an emergency meeting of the provincial government next week. This has been disclosed by IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] spokesman Philip Powell, who was commenting on ANC claims that the IFP was responsible for Monday's massacre at Shobashobane on the south coast. Mr. Powell called on the ANC to make serious attempts to solve the problems in the area instead of engaging in rhetoric. At least 36 people have been killed in three separate attacks in the area during the past two weeks.

ANC's Zuma Blames 'Lax' Security

MB2712181395 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 1400 GMT 27 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KwaZulu/Natal ANC leader Jacob Zuma has blamed the security forces for being lax in preventing the killings near Port Shepstone on the South Coast on Christmas Day. Speaking on his return from a visit to Mozambique, Mr. Zuma said their failure to act swiftly indicated partiality in the way they executed their duties.

Mr. Zuma also expressed his suspicions of third force involvement in the murders, saying they were being planned to undermine joint efforts by President Nelson Mandela and IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi to end the killings.

Police Chief To Send More Units

MB2712160595 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1509 GMT 27 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PRETORIA Dec 27 SAPA — Additional police and logistical support would be sent to Izingolweni on the KwaZulu-Natal south coast "as a matter of urgency", police commissioner George Fivaz said on Wednesday [27 December].

In a statement in Pretoria he said a team of independent police investigators had left Pretoria for Port Shepstone to investigate the Christmas day massacre at Izingolweni where 14 people were killed. Earlier in the day he met Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi, Defence Minister Joe Modise, Deputy Minister of Intelligence Joe Nhlanhla and Safety and Security Secretary Azhar Cachalia to discuss the massacre.

"I have recommended to the acting president that an independent and impartial investigation be conducted into allegations that the police failed to act timeously to prevent the massacre." Fivaz said they also discussed the general security situation in KwaZulu-Natal. Discussions centered around the possible deployment of additional security force personnel in the province, including other flashpoint areas, he said.

Police Arrest Deported Former APLA Commander

MB2712072495 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2116 GMT 26 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] East London Dec 26 SAPA — A former Azanian People's Liberation Army [APLA] commander who was living in Lesotho was arrested by South African Police and would appear in a Free State court on Wednesday in connection with an armed attack on a Bloemfontein police station four years ago.

The Pan-Africanist Congress [PAC] on Tuesday [26 December] claimed Letlapa "Happy" Mphahlele, APLA's former director of operations, was abducted two weeks ago from his home in Lesotho where he was a legal resident and taken across the border illegally.

Police denied the claim, saying Mphahlele was legally deported from Lesotho on Friday and arrested at the

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border. Lesotho officials at the Maseru bridge border post said they had no information about the deportation as others were on duty at the time.

"He was arrested on December 22 on Maseru bridge on the South African side by our police. He was deported from Lesotho," Free State police spokesman Capt Solly Lesia said.

He was not sure why Mphahlele had been deported. "Since his arrest he has been on a hunger strike," Lesia added.

The PAC's central Transkei spokesman, Gilbert Sineke, claimed Mphahlele was abducted and then assaulted. He claimed Mphahlele was legally resident in Lesotho an had been arrested "two weeks ago in Lesotho by white South African security members with the assistance of certain elements of the Lesotho police, and taken inside the country without an extradition order".

"Our information is that he is presently detained in Bethlehem where he was so brutally assaulted and tortured that he has not been able to eat since Wednesday December 19," Sineke said in a statement. Lesia said police took Mphahlele to the district surgeon shortly after his arrest, but no injuries were found.

Lesotho police in Maseru and other towns said they had not heard of the case or any allegations of abduction. Lesia said Mphahlele would appear in court in Bethlehem on Wednesday in connection with the December 1991 attack on the Batho police station at Bloemfontein.

The attackers used a handgrenade and automatic rifles, but nobody was injured. The attack took place before the December 5, 1993, cut-off date for indemnity.

It is not known if Mphahlele ever applied for indemnity. Police previously accused him of involvement in violent attacks linked to APLA.

According to a police submission made to the Goldstone Commission inquiry into APLA activities in January 1993, a Happy Letlapa was involved in several armed attacks including the December 14 1991 attacks on the Batho and Mangaung police stations in Bloemfontein.

Police subsequently identified the man as Letlapa Mphahlele.

They arrested four people shortly after the attack. One of them, Jerome Dlamini, told police he was instructed to carry out the attacks by Letlapa, who was APLA's chief of operations at the time.

Another attack on police in the centre of Bloemfontein was planned, but later aborted. The police submissions also referred to statements made by APLA member Steven Vusumzi Dolo, implicating Letlapa in the January 1992 attack on the Lady Grey police station and the attack later that month on Fairview farm in the Lady Grey district. Dolo was later jailed for 15 years for his involvement.

Police told the Goldstone Commission Letlapa was one of the key APLA commanders in the region.

"The high command (internal) is commanded by Enoch Zulu. He is also the commander of APLA in the RSA [Republic of South Africa]," stated the police submission.

"Lawrence Vumankosi Nticinka was until recently the chief of APLA operations in Transkei. He was however replaced during November 1992 by Moses Mphalala Letlapa "Happy" who also serves as the deputy to Enoch Zulu in the high command (internal).

"Both these individuals are based in the Transkei," the submission said.

The police submission to Goldstone stated the orders originated from the high command and were passed on to regional and local commands.

The regional commands allegedly provided arms and ammunition. The police accused Letlapa and Zulu of involvement in "planning and ordering various attacks on police and civilians which were thereafter carried out from within the Transkei".

The police submissions to Goldstone listed 48 incidents which they alleged APLA was responsible for, including armed robberies, attacks on farms, travellers and police.

The same month the police submissions were given to the Goldstone Commission, police announced they were looking for Mphahlele and three other senior APLA members in connection with various armed attacks in the Eastern Cape and Free State.

PAC Says Arrest 'Illegal'

MB2712132595 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1258 GMT 27 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Johannesburg Dec 27 SAPA — The arrest of former Azanian People's Liberation Army [APLA] commander Letlapa "Happy" Mphahlele was illegal and he should be returned to Lesotho immediately, the Pan-Africanist Congress [PAC] said on Wednesday [27 December].

The PAC on Tuesday claimed Mphahlele, APLA's former director of operations, was abducted two weeks ago from his home in Lesotho where he was a legal resident and taken across the border illegally.

Police denied the claim, saying Mphahlele had been legally deported from Lesotho on Friday and arrested

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on the South African side of the Maseru bridge border post.

PAC Deputy President Motsoko Pheko on Wednesday said in a statement: "His (Mphahlele's) abduction was a result of APLA activities allegedly committed four years ago in Bloemfontein. We regard his arrest as illegal and demand that he be returned to Lesotho immediately and due process of the law be followed if this government wants to prosecute him for fighting against apartheid. We also demand that this government makes its attitude and position clear regarding those soldiers, from both APLA and MK (the ruling African National Congress's military wing Umkhonto we Sizwe [Spear of the Nation]), who are still rotting in prison in spite of the fact that they were arrested for crimes committed against the crime of apartheid before the official December 5 cut-off date."

Free State police on Tuesday said Mphahlele would appear in court in Bethlehem on Wednesday in connection with a December 1991 attack on the Batho police station at Bloemfontein.

The attackers used a handgrenade and automatic rifles, but nobody was injured. The attack took place before the December 5 1993 cut-off date for indemnity.

It is not known if Mphahlele ever applied for indemnity. Police previously accused him of involvement in violent attacks linked to APLA.

"We wish to remind this government and the police in particular, which appears to be still operating in the pre-April 1994 (style) that apartheid was declared a crime against humanity in terms of the 1973 United Nations Convention on the Punishment and Suppression of Apartheid," Pheko said.

He said apartheid was on par with crimes like genocide and no person who fought against it should be persecuted by the government.

"We are trying to contact the Lesotho authorities to alert them about this cross-border, 'total-strategy' approach; to protest this violation of their territorial sovereignty and demand the return of Letlapa Mphahlele to Lesotho immediately," Pheko said.

Azapo Says Blacks No Better Off Since Elections

MB2812105295 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0940 GMT 28 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pietersburg Dec 28 SAPA — Blacks were no better off since last year's general elections and most were still living in abject poverty, the Azanian People's Organisation [Azapo] in Northern Province said on Thursday [28 December].

Chairman Don Nkadimeng said Azapo was concerned that 60 percent of blacks were unemployed. It was also concerned that the government of national unity was considering selling state property at a time when these assets were needed to generate development funds.

"Railways, airways, post offices and telecommunications networks will soon be sold to rich white individuals and companies, empowering them to continue exploiting the majority of people in the so-called new South Africa," Nkadimeng said.

"Black people will increasingly be the poorer in years to come, until Azapo takes over in 1999."

He criticised the government for not meeting its election campaign housing promises, and said the provincial government had returned funds earmarked for housing to the central government.

"Whites are still in control of the country's economy and other institutions of state power," Nkadimeng added.

South African Press Review for 27 Dec

MB2712160495

[FBIS Editorial Report]

THE STAR

Need for Services Payments — "Operation Masakhane [mutual construction] should not be allowed to become the victim of public apathy," declares a page-10 editorial in Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 27 December. There "cannot be a persistent refusal to pay for services," and the disclosure that formerly white areas in Johannesburg are in arrears on their rate payments by up to 700 million rands "is good reason to extend the scope of Masakhane beyond the townships it now targets."

SOWETAN

Fomenting Violence in KwaZulu/Natal — — Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 27 December in a page-8 editorial says condemning the killings in KwaZulu/Natal "is not enough" and they should change their attitudes toward the issue. "It was disappointing to hear representatives of the African National Congress and Inkatha Freedom Party attacking one another on prime time TV over the killings." "They should also realise that it is possible they are being used by people who do not want peace. ANC members get killed without provocation and a week later IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] members get killed and the conflict snowballs with counter-attacks."

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BUSINESS DAY

Military's Countertrade Requirements Not Necessary — The decision that all foreign purchases by the Armaments Corporation of South Africa, Armscor, for South Africa's military shall be subject to full countertrade requirements is "short-sighted," says a page-4 editorial in Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 27 December. If Armscor believes countertrade will help promote exports of nonmilitary goods, this belief is "misplaced." "Well made and well priced manufactured goods can be exported easily, but the emphasis has to be placed on their being well made and well priced." Furthermore, the country is "not suffering foreign exchange shortages that Armscor claims make countertrade necessary."

South African Press Review for 28 Dec

MB2812112395

[FBIS Editorial Report]

THE STAR

Desire for Control Cause of KwaZulu/Natal Violence — The mass killings in KwaZulu/Natal over the Christmas period have taken place "despite the renewed peace initiative launched earlier this month by President Mandela and the IFP's [Inkatha Freedom Party] Mangosuthu Buthelezi," notes Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 28 December in a page-10 editorial. Despite Acting President Thabo Mbeki taking the matter "so seriously" the chief antagonists, the IFP and the ANC, "appear more willing to score points than to find peaceful solutions. An ANC spokesman, for instance, claims violence in the province has increased since Premier Frank Mdlalose took over the Safety and Security portfolio." THE STAR believes the violence is the result of a "political power play." "The IFP has a laager mentality which appears to be based on narrow-minded selfishness. The ANC, for its part, seems unable to accept that the whole country should not be its domain. A 'third force' factor can also not be discounted, given the indiscriminate nature of the attacks." The "political furnace" in KwaZulu/Natal is being stoked by "the desire for control."

SOWETAN

'Questionable Agendas' Behind KwaZulu/Natal Violence — Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 28 December in a page-8 editorial finds it "sickening" that "massacre after massacre" is taking place in KwaZulu/Natal. "Efforts to stop the violence should be taken as a national priority. It should not be the responsibility of only those in the province. It is sad that politicians are trying to score political points with people's lives. They are pointing fingers at one another instead of getting on with the task of bringing normality to the situation." SOWETAN also notes that if KwaZulu/Natal normalizes either the IFP or ANC "will get the credit" and "some people with highly questionable agendas do not want that."

BUSINESS DAY

Security Failure in KwaZulu/Natal — The killings over Christmas in KwaZulu/Natal show the "government's security crackdown, Operation Jambu, is failing," according to Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 28 December. This "does not mean, as the IFP apparently holds, that it should be abandoned in favour of a political approach. Conflict over the constitutional position of the province undoubtedly fuels tensions and must be addressed, but a solution will require political and security initiatives." BUSINESS DAY believes the government "is right to resist pressures from its own ranks to declare a state of emergency. The suspension of civil liberties so soon after SA's democratic transition would set a dangerous precedent and convey to the world that the government has no faith in its law-enforcement agencies." "To disarm critics who charge that Operation Jambu is a disguised assault on Inkatha, the IFP-led regional government must be drawn into a joint peacekeeping drive." Given the demands on policemen elsewhere, the task of keeping the peace falls to the South African National Defense Force and joint operational planning and control of the security forces by the central and provincial governments "would go a long way to dispelling complaints of security force bias."

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Angola

Observers Meet UNITA Leaders in Bailundo

MB2812063195 Luanda TPA Television Network in Portuguese 1930 GMT 27 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The troika of observers has returned from Bailundo where it held talks with the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA]. In Bailundo, UNITA leaders assured the observers that it would implement the Lusaka Protocol. The Portuguese ambassador was not present at the meeting as he is busy preparing the Portuguese president's visit to Angola. The diplomats did not comment on the expected meeting between the Angolan head of state and the UNITA leader. The government would like to see the meeting take place in Angola on 5 January.

The observers did not meet Jonas Savimbi but held a four-hour meeting with a UNITA delegation, which included Lukamba Gato, Abel Chivukuvuku, Ben-Ben, Altino Sapalalo Bock, Demostenes Chilingutila, Jorge Valentim, and Isaias Samakuva. According to a source close to the peace process, both the troika of observers and UNITA acknowledged that the peace process is stagnant and as such, there is a need to find ways to give it a new boost. The source revealed that UNITA reaffirmed its commitment to implement the Lusaka Protocol and called on the UN Angola Verification Mission-3 to play a more active role in monitoring violations.

In turn, the observers urged UNITA to actively take part in organizing a meeting in Angola between President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi.

UNITA's Gato on New Government Attacks

MB2812063995 London BBC World Service in Portuguese 2030 GMT 27 Dec 95

[From the "Londres Ultima Hora" Program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] today accused the government of carrying out a new military offensive at Quitexe, Uige Province. According to the former rebel movement, this new position raises serious doubts about the holding of the Joint Commission meeting scheduled to take place in Luanda tomorrow. In an interview with our colleague Carlos Alberto Araujo, UNITA Secretary General Lukamba Gato said his movement had reported the matter to the troika of observers who visited Bailundo today. Lukamba Gato first spoke about the meeting with the troika of observers from Portugal, United States, and Russia.

[Begin recording] [Gato] We concluded that the crisis which the peace process is experiencing is much more serious than it appeared in the eyes of some international community members. We thus agreed that there is a need to work more firmly and with greater transparency so that we can place the peace process back on track at the right time.

[Araujo] You spoke of a crisis which is more serious than what the international community thought. Does this mean that the military situation has deteriorated over the past few days?

[Gato] Absolutely. After the crisis caused by the offensive in Zaire, which has not yet been restrained, this morning, 30 minutes before the meeting with the observers, we were informed about a new large-scale offensive carried out by the government forces from Uige toward Quitexe. They are using motorized infantry and self-propelled artillery, thus raising serious doubts as to whether the government is seriously committed to fully implementing all the clauses of the Lusaka Protocol.

[Araujo] This means, therefore, that the military talks which were scheduled to take place tomorrow will no longer take place?

[Gato] Well, my military colleagues told the troika of observers that in the present circumstances, they cannot go to Luanda. The government must decide what we should do. It is vital that we know exactly who is our partner in the peace process. If it is government alone, then it should fulfill its undertakings. If, apart from the disengagement we have with the government, there is a need for another agreement with the chief of the General Staff, we need to be officially informed of this.

[Araujo] Sources close to UNITA say the government has two agendas in its negotiations with UNITA. Do you share this view?

[Gato] Well, facts in the field clearly show that the government has two agendas: It has the Lusaka Protocol, which it can use for its convenience and it has its military plan, which it gradually carries out. If we try to compare the military situation one year ago, that is during the period of the signing of the Lusaka Protocol, and now, even the least attentive observer will see that the government did not stop its actions. It occupied many new positions.

[Araujo] These new developments will therefore further complicate the expected meeting between Savimbi and Eduardo dos Santos?

[Gato] Well, in the logic of things, we think that a meeting between President Savimbi and President Jose Eduardo dos Santos should take place at a time

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when the situation of the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol is minimally in order, with the restoration of an atmosphere of trust and (?understanding). Hence, it is premature at this moment to speak of a meeting between President Savimbi and President Jose Eduardo dos Santos because there is still a lot of work to do if the Luanda government decides to implement the Lusaka Protocol.

[Araujo] A last question, Mr. secretary general, what is UNITA's assessment of the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol in 1995?

[Gato] Catastrophic. [end recording]

UNITA Military Team Fails To Arrive in Luanda

MB2812080895 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 0600 GMT 28 Dec 95

[Report by Pedro Manuel]

[FBIS Translated Text] The meeting of Angolan Armed Forces [FAA] and National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] soldiers has been postponed.

UNITA Secretary General Paulo Lukamba Gato's latest remarks suggest that the military commission is unlikely to meet soon. Gato told VOA that the government has launched a military operation in Uige Province, thereby deepening the Angolan peace process' crisis.

This helps explain why the UNITA military team did not make it to Luanda yesterday. Gato also said UN Special Representative Alioune Blondin Beye has already been apprised of the latest developments. Blondin Beye is expected to make another trip to Bailundo today.

UNITA Denies RSA Mercenaries Repatriated

MB2712112195 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 27 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Angolan Government wants to be the referee and player of the Lusaka Protocol. Through its Minister Without Portfolio Higino Carneiro, the Luanda government announced the repatriation of 70 Executive Outcomes mercenaries to South Africa.

A National Union for the Total Independence of Angola source told the Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel that the statement was a mere slick exercise by the Angolan Government because in terms of the Lusaka Protocol the United Nations must monitor and supervise the withdrawal of about 5,000 South African [RSA] mercenaries serving with the Angolan Armed Forces. As far as is known, the United Nations has not taken any initiative in that regard, and in any event the Angolan Government has not yet repatriated any mercenary.

UNITA: 40 Killed in Quitexe Government Attack

MB2812075695 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 28 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] Northern Region Military Command has expressed indignation at the behavior of the Angolan Armed Forces [FAA]. Yesterday, the FAA troops launched an attack on UNITA-controlled areas in Uige Province. Military sources say the aim is to occupy Quitexe District. More than 40 people have been killed as a result of the attack.

The FAA offensive is led by General Vietnam and there are no doubts that this major operation received the FAA General Staff's and the Angolan Government's blessing. [passage omitted]

FAA Reports UNITA Attacks in Various Provinces

MB2812080995 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 0600 GMT 28 Dec 95

[Report by Pedro Manuel]

[FBIS Translated Text] In his latest report, General Francisco Furtado, Angolan Armed Forces [FAA] Southern Front commander, said the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] armed forces have stepped up their operations against civilians and soldiers in Huila, Namibe, and Cunene Provinces. Gen. Furtado said the FAA Southern Front Command has already alerted the UN Angola Verification Mission [Unavem]-3 to these developments, adding that a Unavem-3 team confirmed them on the ground.

Gen. Furtado also said that UNITA has moved two reinforced battalions from Huambo Province to the southern region, adding that UNITA is deploying forces in areas the Lusaka Protocol does not describe as troop confinement points.

Thus, things are taking a turn for the worse in the peace process.

Mozambique

Efficacy of Parliamentary Opposition Questioned

MB2212144095 Maputo IMPARCIAL in Portuguese 20 Dec 95 p 3

[Article by Miguel Lopes Jr.: "Is the Opposition Napping?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Strangely, a scandal like the alleged government embezzlement of millions of rands in pension and compensation money owed to Mozambican miners and their families has left our Parliament, particularly the opposition bench, indifferent.

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By practically helping the government get out of the obvious embarrassment caused by that report, Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] and UD [Democratic Union] MP's kept bizarrely napping, and did not use their right to give one of those "concrete examples" of corruption the head of state and government was calling for very recently. Significantly, NOTICIAS, which is keen on "discovering" Renamo armed men that only exist in the minds of its correspondents, did not write a sentence about a very specific case that right now is making the rounds all over the world.

We can guarantee that in parliaments of any democratic country, a "bomb" of this nature would have been looked at in its minute details by the opposition until the government could give a plausible explanation about it. Otherwise, it would have resigned or dismissed the head of the relevant department.

After MP Joao Goncalves' incisive remarks, in which Renamo finally assumed its political role in parliamentary — when it pushed the government into a corner and stripped apart the hollow stage show that included the use of graphics and projectors — his bench, instead of using that as a starting point for a more useful performance, seems to have been taken for a ride (or even "swallowed") by Frelimo's [Mozambique Liberation Front] immediate call for "national reconciliation." But the call was artificial and deceitful, and based on an "amnesiac justice" whose application fitted within conveniently defined parameters.

When the opposition finally grasped the situation — the need for a debate on the dictatorship's past is a matter of national importance to genuinely bring together the "two concepts of Mozambique" still prevailing — it suddenly backtracked. In doing so, it intrigued everyone, notably the electorate that had voted for the political parties it represents.

As an intense propaganda barrage was launched by a news media still scandalously under Frelimo's clutch — and which, under the control of the State Information and Security Service, either "pats Renamo on the back" or "uncovers" coup plots, secret plans for a return to war, and Afonso Dhlakama movement's soldiers, depending on the type of "dire straits" and embarrassing situations the regime finds itself in — the opposition bench should realize that its role is not to be kind and "well mannered" toward its political adversaries. Like the saying goes, the opposition should know that "beggars ask questions when the alms are of great value."

At a time when a government, which stems from a 20-year administration that left Mozambique lagging behind and heading the list of international "beggars," tries to evade this reality by unashamedly stating that it could not have done more in one year since it had (one finds it astonishing!) to assess and identify problems (?), the apathy shown by Renamo and UD in the last Parliament sessions makes many of us believe that the artful flattery and the privileges the regime granted the opposition behind the scenes — in exchange for agreements so the multiparty Parliament should again be the "yes-man show" just like in the days of the puppet Assembly of the Republic — have done wonders.

Whether it is entirely true or not — one should add that the ragged "explanations" the labor minister gave Radio Mozambique convinced no one — the pensions' scandal symbolizes, along with the cases involving the Seeds and Agricultural Implements Program and the Pande gas field accord with Enron, the main handicap in all of Frelimo's governments: a complete lack of commitment to genuinely fight corruption by setting up mechanisms and independent agencies that can effectively do away with the parasite that, while afflicting the Mozambican society as a whole, will continue to render every balanced development project useless.

The precise duty of Renamo and UD MP's is to get rid of their guilty silence and spearhead a systematic campaign to criticize and continually engage in the debate the government and the country need. Otherwise, the MP's risk being the target of society's and the electorate's legitimate suspicion and being regarded as a mere alternative — in terms of persons rather than methods — to government, as well as being seen as having betrayed their mission and contributed to the distortion of the ideals of democracy for which they claim to have fought.

Swaziland

Government Affirms Support for Taiwan's UN Bid

MB2212082995 Mbabane THE SWAZI OBSERVER in English 22 Dec 95 p 3

[Report by Phesheya Vilakati]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Swaziland remains a strong supporter of the Republic of China's (ROC) re-admission to the United Nations (UN) organisation, says the Minister for Foreign Affairs Senator Arthur Khoza.

Speaking yesterday during the official opening of the Joint Ministerial Conference on Economic and Technical Cooperation between the ROC and Swaziland, he said that the re-admission of the Chinese on Taiwan was only fair. Senator Khoza advised the ROC to participate in the world body's decision-making organs.

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"The Republic of China should freely share its expertise in economic and industrial development with the rest of the international community," he added.

He said that the UN's principle of universality is applied equally and democratically.

Senator Khoza observed that the recent state visits by His Majesty the King to China, and President Lee Teng-hui to the Kingdom have accelerated the cooperation between the two countries.

"This development must be seen as a direct challenge to each of us to re-double our efforts in prosecuting whatever business is assigned to us," said Senator Khoza.

He said he is looking forward to the early implementation of new projects "which have been identified and discussed at length".

Government Receives Union Notice of Mass Action

MB1912141595 Mbabane Swazi Television in English 1730 GMT 18 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Government has since received communication from the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions [SFTU], threatening mass action in January next year. This was disclosed by the minister for labor and public service, Mr. Albert Shabangu, in an interview with Mbuso Matsenjwa.

[Begin Shabangu recording] Yes, that communication has reached government. I did see a copy of the letter written by SFTU to the prime minister. Normally, SFTU on these matters do not write to us, they often write to the prime minister, not often. We did see the copy of that letter. However, I believe that the reason why they are talking industrial action is related to progress so far reached on the issues raised, the 27 demands, so called.

Now we, through a resolution of some time in July, the tripartite forum requested that government allows them to monitor progress on these issues, and the government agreed to that, and indeed on the 2d of November there was a meeting of the Labor Advisory Board, which is also a tripartite forum, that requested, that discussed this matter in part and then they requested a briefing, an update from the government so that they could discuss it on the 30th of November. That update was prepared by us, and handed over to the Labor Advisory Board, but unfortunately that meeting is already history now that meeting did not take place because SFTU was not available.

I have asked that the Labor Advisory Board should meet again so that they look at the update, and on the basis of that update we will then know why it is necessary for industrial action if it should be there at all. [end recording]

Government Not To Deter Unions

MB2112061195 Mbabane THE SWAZI OBSERVER in English 21 Dec 95 p 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU) yesterday vowed that no amount of pressure or threats will deter them from achieving "our well deserved basic fundamental rights". Reacting to the Deputy Prime Minister [DPM], Dr. Sishayi Nxumalo's threat that government will use every means at its disposal to crush the planned mass stay-away at the end of January next year, SFTU's Secretary-General Mr Jan Sithole said as a social group, workers human beings and citizens, they have an unconditional right to demand, criticize and recommend to the government.

"We pity those politicians who take things personally because such an attitude towards national issues can easily temper with their blood pressure," Mr Sithole said.

He said the SFTU is not surprised at the DPM's remarks for the simple reason that such statements have become Dr. Nxumalo's slogan at this time of the year, recalling that he said the same in November last year.

"SFTU has made a statement about the system which has failed to be responsive to the down-trodden yet amongst other things the DPM's ministry is the custodian of the system.

"This therefore makes his ministry an endangered species and he has to fight to protect that ministry." .

Mr Sithole advised Dr. Nxumalo that nobody owns the Tinkhundla [Traditional Community Councils] system other than the Swazi people themselves.

"They too have a right to demand for the review of the system and as such there is no reason of being emotional or being personal about what belongs to the people.

"The action and comments that the DPM has alluded to gives more reason to lose confidence in the system of government."

Mr Sithole said that instead Dr. Nxumalo should be telling them what government is going to do with the unions' demands, and explaining the probable difficulties in meeting the workers' demands.

"The DPM promises to crush our mass stay-away which may not happen if responses are made available. This goes along with the adage that 'whenever we cry of hunger, anger is the response'," he said.

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He said he was hopeful that the DPM's remarks do not imply that government will not take advantage of the time and resolve the pending issues.

"We also hope that the DPM's remarks does not imply that the solution to workers' genuine basic fundamental demands is brutality and confrontation," said Mr Sithole.

Planned Demonstration 'Threat' to Government

MB2712193795 Mbabane Swazi Television in English 1730 GMT 27 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government could not comment today about the statement issued by the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions, SFTU, that tomorrow there will be a mass demonstration by the street vendors in both cities, Manzini and Mbabane. The deputy prime minister, Dr. Sishayi Nxumalo, said he could not comment on the issue because he regarded the statement as a threat to government. He was speaking during a press conference in his office this afternoon.

[Begin Nxumalo recording] It's very difficult for a government to react under threats. Once they have threatened these mass demonstrations it becomes very difficult for whomsoever is handling the matter. No one negotiates with a gun pointed on his head. That makes it very difficult. It is unfortunate that this matter has reached this stage. The last understanding I had myself, from the minister in charge, was that certain places were going to be selected for these people so that they can also continue to sell and have a livelihood, because once places have been selected then the people will know where to go to get food, this and that — the reason being that, number one, the minister spoke about the health hazard of selling in the streets, food, particularly food and vegetables. We all know what happened when the cholera outbreak came. Vegetables were even closed ... [pauses] I mean, prohibited from coming to Swaziland. Now, disease is easy to control when you have certain places which can be hygienically looked after. Now to me this was a powerful argument, that they were looking after the health of the whole nation to ensure that disease does not spread easily, and number two, that these people were not going to be thrown away. They were going to be asked to go to special places, and then I heard also that there has been some understanding with all of them, the market people and the vendors, and the ministry in charge, that certain places are acceptable where the people are going to go, so what I saw in the papers is a complete surprise to me. [end recording]

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Nigeria

Abacha Inaugurates 'Character Commission'

AB2712182695 Kaduna Radio Nigeria in English 1700 GMT 27 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Federal Character Commission has been directed to work out an equitable formula for sharing all posts in the federal and state civil services as well as government-owned corporations and parastatals. The head of state, General Sani Abacha, gave the directive today in Abuja, while inaugurating the commission.

Gen. Abacha said the commission was also to promote, monitor, and enforce compliance with the principles of proportional sharing of posts at all levels of government. In addition, it is to take disciplinary measures against any government establishment which fails to comply with the federal character stipulations. The head of state said the inauguration of the commission signified government's determination to ensure political cohesion and stability of the nation. He said the setting up of the body was to address the problem of imbalanced representation and fear of marginalization among Nigerians.

The commander in chief urged members of the commission to be just, firm, and accommodating in the discharge of their duties to ensure that federal institutions created a sense of belonging for all citizens. Gen. Abacha asked the commission to develop effective programs to promote social security and integration by harmonizing all factors of divisiveness emanating from ethnic, cultural, and religious differences.

The chairman of the 30-member commission, Alhaji (Adamu Tika), assured that they would live up to expectation.

Military Undergoes Preparation for Civilian Rule

AB2712190595 Kaduna Radio Nigeria in English 1700 GMT 27 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Federal Government has begun counseling military personnel for their subordination to civil authorities as the nation returns to democracy. The director of Defense Information, Brigadier General Fred Chijuka, said in Lagos that the head of state, General Sani Abacha, had made it a major pronouncement in his recent address to the military. Brig. Gen. Chijuka restated the government's commitment to returning the country to civil rule within the three-year transition time frame. He said the government had extended an olive branch to its critics, saying those in the opposition should reciprocate the gesture by burying their personal ambitions. The defense's spokesman urged Nigerians to cooperate with the government to facilitate a smooth transition to democracy.

Police Ban All Protest Rallies in Ogun State

AB2712192795 Paris AFP in English 1854 GMT 27 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lagos, Dec 27 (AFP) — Nigerian police on Wednesday [27 December] reaffirmed a ban on all public rallies in the southwestern state of Ogun, in a move apparently aimed at preventing a March to protest the continued detention of several opposition leaders.

Press reports had earlier said that the opposition Campaign for Democracy (CD) coalition planned to rally on Thursday in Abeokuta, the state capital. The rally was to protest the continued detention of former head of state General Olusegun Obasanjo, former presidential candidate Chief Moshood Abiola and Beko Ransome-Kuti, the CD leader, the reports said.

The three opposition figures are all natives of Abeokuta. Abiola is the man widely believed to have won a presidential election in 1993. The poll was annulled by the military before results were announced. Obasanjo and Ransome-Kuti are currently serving 15-year jail terms following their conviction by a special military tribunal that tried them over a failed coup plot, alleged to have been hatched in March.

Wednesday's police statement said that nobody had applied for a police permit to organize a rally in the state, and anyone who tried to take part in any unlawful rally would be dealt with decisively." [no beginning quotation marks as received]

Police in Lagos, Nigeria's biggest city, used teargas to disrupt a pro-democracy rally on December 19. Several organizers of the demonstration were injured in a stampede that followed the police action.

Envoy on Western Attempts To 'Recolonize' Africa

AB2212205195 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 1500 GMT 22 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign minister of Equatorial Guinea, Mr. Miguel Oyono Mifumu, has spoken of moves to recolonize the continent by the former colonial powers in the guise of championing human rights and democracy. Mr. Mifumo stated this in Abuja when he delivered a solidarity message from President Nguema Mbasogo to the head of state, General Sani Abacha. He stressed that it was the collective responsibility of African leaders to safeguard the territorial integrity of their nations and respect the sovereignty of fellow African states.

In his response, the head of state spoke of the need for African leaders to reassess the position of the continent

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in the international environment and unite to defend its interests. Gen. Abacha assured the envoy of government efforts to strengthen existing cordial relations between Nigeria and Equatorial Guinea, which, he said, had a long history of good neighborliness.

Senegal

Cease-Fire Reportedly Holding in Casamance

AB2712175395 London BBC World Service in English 1505 GMT 27 Dec 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is a month since Senegalese separatist rebels of the MFDC [Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance] called a unilateral cease-fire in the southern province of Casamance. Apparently, it is still holding. So hopes are rising for a permanent settlement of the 13-year dispute in the new year. Our reporter, Joseph Winter, has just been in Casamance. He sent this report:

[Begin Winter recording] On arriving in the regional capital, the most obvious sign of the newfound peace is the rocket and bangers which children are letting off everywhere to celebrate Christmas and New Year. For many years, fireworks were outlawed as their bangs had everyone diving for cover. This year, Casamance is echoing to explosions of joy rather than war. The key change is that most of the population, who once supported the independence cause, is now fed up with the fighting. They are tired of being intimidated and harassed by the Senegalese Army and, more recently, being [word indistinct] by the rebels in search of food.

With the loss of their support base and on the run from government troops, the rebel leaders have little choice but to negotiate. They seem likely to accept the terms taken by their comrades of the MFDC's northern front in 1993. These include training for demobilized fighters and investment funds to start up farming and fishing projects. One Senegalese official, who asked not to be named, told me that under pressure from Dakar, the United Nations refugee agency will soon start repatriating the 25,000 Casamance refugees in Guinea Bissau and The Gambia. The Senegalese Government wants them to go back home as soon as possible as a sign of a return to normality and to stop the rebel fighters hiding amongst them beyond the reach of Senegalese law.

Nevertheless, roundtable talks remain some way off, and Dakar is still totally opposed to any form of autonomy for Casamance. On the so-called road of terror between Ziguinchor and Kolda, where the most recent rebel action was seen, tension remains high. On a 14-mile stretch of road, I crossed six military checkpoints and had to get down from the minibus I was travelling in three times while the soldiers searched for weapons. No one, however, complained about the inconvenience, and several passengers thanked the soldiers for ensuring their safety. As one told us, it is far better being stopped and searched than travelling in fear of your life. [end recording]

Sierra Leone

RUF Continues 'Bloody Campaign' in Mayamba

AB2712121495 Freetown SLBS Radio in English 2000 GMT 26 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bandits of the RUF [Revolutionary United Front] have continued their bloody campaign in the Mayamba District. Correspondents in the region say Taiama, seven miles from the university town of Njala, Majomba, and Jagbahun in the (Kowa) chiefdom in the Mayamba District were attacked by the bandits.

The correspondents add that the Army responded swiftly to the attack after a tip-off in which several bandits were killed in a three-hour battle that ensued with government troops. An RUF commando, nicknamed Baba, perished in the confrontation with the special task force. There were no reports of civilian and Army casualties.

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